

**“Taken from House Report 104-196  
FY 1996 House Report...”**

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

The Committee has included under this section of Title II the Department of Commerce agencies involved in technology research and development, scientific assessment and prediction of environmental phenomena, and the administrative and policy functions providing oversight for these activities.

### **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY**

The Committee recommends a total of \$404,100,000 for the three appropriations accounts under the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for fiscal year 1996. This amount is a reduction of \$618,950,000 from the budget request, and is a decrease of \$359,698,000 below the amounts appropriated for fiscal year 1995. A description of each account and the Committee recommendation follows:

### **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES**

The Committee has provided \$263,000,000 for the Scientific and Technical Research and Services (core programs) appropriation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This amount is a reduction of \$47,679,000 from the budget request and a decrease of \$1,486,000 below the fiscal year 1995 appropriation. The amounts provided for this account reflect the Committee's commitment to funding basic research programs that benefit the nation's industries.

The following is a breakdown of the amounts provided under this account by activity. This distribution should be used as the basis for any proposed reprogrammings of funds:

Electronics and Electrical Engineering	\$37,000,000
Manufacturing Engineering	19,200,000
Chemical Science and Technology	27,100,000
Physics	27,400,000
Material Sciences and Engineering	53,400,000
Building and Fire Research	13,200,000

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Computer Systems	30,700,000
Applied Mathematics and Scientific Computing	10,000,000
Technical Assistance	18,000,000
Research Support	27,000,000
Total, NIST core research	\$263,000,000

The Committee recommendation is within the amounts proposed in the pending reauthorization bill for the NIST internal research programs.

The Committee understands that NIST is currently considering the assignment of personnel to nine overseas posts. Each of these posts currently have Commerce Department representation through the Commercial Service. The Committee does not approve the placement of additional NIST personnel overseas. Concerns about the rapid growth of overseas personnel from agencies other than the Department of State are addressed elsewhere in this report.

Quality Program- Within the amount designated for 'Research Support', the Committee has provided \$2,900,000 for the base NIST Quality Program, which includes the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Committee fully endorses the continuation of the basic Baldrige award program.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

The Committee recommends \$81,100,000 for the Industrial Technology Services appropriation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This amount is \$353,573,000 below the current appropriation available for fiscal year 1995, and is \$561,358,000 below the budget request.

Advanced Technology Program- The Committee has provided no new funds for the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) because of the likelihood that no authorization will be provided for the program. The Committee understands that as of May 31, 1995, approximately \$187,000,000 of ATP funds remained unobligated. The Committee has included bill language

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directing that no additional grants be awarded, and that any remaining balances be used to fund the continuation costs of ATP grants awarded in fiscal year 1994 and prior years. Administrative costs necessary for the management of continuation grants may be absorbed under the NIST internal account.

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program- The Committee has included \$81,100,000 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program. This amount will allow for the continuation of eligible existing centers, rollover costs for 22 of the 37 Centers originally funded under the Technology Reinvestment Program under the Defense Department, and for one additional competition for new centers to be conducted in fiscal year 1996.

### CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$60,000,000 for construction of NIST facilities. This amount is a decrease of \$4,639,000 below the amount appropriated for the current fiscal year, and is \$9,913,000 below the budget request. The Committee recognizes the importance of continuing the long term plan to address the technical obsolescence of NIST facilities, but expects NIST to reassess its building requirements in light of reduced program and staffing levels and overall budget constraints.

This program supports all NIST activities by providing the facilities necessary to carry out the NIST mission. The Institute has proposed a multiyear effort to construct advanced technology laboratories and to renovate NIST's current buildings and laboratory facilities in compliance with more stringent science and engineering program requirements. The amount provided for fiscal year 1996 will permit continuation of both the design work for new facilities and enhanced maintenance of NIST's existing facilities.